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Vermont to launch statewide automated victim notification service

New system to monitor an offender's custody status

Louisville, Ky. – Crime victims and other concerned citizens throughout Vermont will soon have access to real-time information about the custody status of their offenders through the state Department of Correction's Vermont Automated Notification Service (VANS).

Users can call 1-866-976-VANS (1-866-976-8267) or log onto www.vinelink.com to find out if an offender is in jail. They can also register to be notified by phone or e-mail in the event of a release, transfer, escape, or upcoming parole hearing.

Live operators are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist victims who need help obtaining offender information or registering for notification. Technical support professionals monitor and maintain VANS to ensure high reliability and availability of this potentially life-saving service. VANS is free to the public and available in both English and Spanish.

The implementation of VANS is being funded by a Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance. Since 2005, the SAVIN grant program has nearly doubled the number of states providing automated victim notification.

The Vermont DOC has contracted with Appriss® Inc., a Louisville, Kentucky-based technology company that provides resources to criminal justice and victims of crime. Vermont joins 37 other states that have launched statewide victim notification using Appriss technology and services.

About Appriss

Appriss provides innovative technology solutions that help thousands of local, state, and Federal government agencies serve and protect their citizens. Other innovative services include VINE Protective Order®, which automatically notifies petitioners when protective orders are served on respondents; JusticeXchange®, the leading solution connecting criminal justice agencies nationwide; SONAR®, an automated tool that keeps communities informed on the whereabouts of registered sex offenders; and MethCheck®, which allows law enforcement to monitor the purchases of pseudoephedrine, a key component in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. BJA provides leadership, services, and funding to America's communities by emphasizing local control; building relationships in the field; developing collaborations and partnerships; promoting capacity building through planning; streamlining the administration of grants; increasing training and technical assistance; creating accountability of projects; encouraging innovation; and ultimately communicating the value of justice efforts to decision-makers at every level.